Term Grain Policy (July, 2002) under the chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen set up by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) relates to the status of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). According to the Committee, the CACP should be made an empowered statutory body.

(b) and (c) In order to examine methodological and related recommendations in the light of the main conclusions/ recommendations of the National Seminar on Methodological Issues in the Fixation of Minimum Support Prices held in New Delhi in November 6-7, 2002 an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh has recently been set up. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Committee include examination of issues having a bearing on the status of CACP.

Minikit under Macro Management Programme

†1351. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making arrangements for providing minikits in time in different centrally sponsored Macro Management Programme;

(b) whether Government will consider to fix time-limit for supply of minikits from next year; and

(c) if so, whether Government will provide amount of their share adequately and in time as per the demand; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Minikit programme is not covered under Macro Management Scheme, which was evolved by merging 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Under Macro Management Scheme, the States have been given flexibility to develop and pursue activity on the basis of their regional priorities and they are free, within given parameter to select any/all the 27 Schemes and their components and include

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

them in their work plan. Whenever necessary new intervention for Agriculture Crops and Horticulture Crops proposed by State are also considered for inclusion in work plan upto a limited extent.

Under macro management Scheme funds are released to States in lump-sum as per their work plan, which in-turn allots funds to programmes/activities on priority basis as per work plan. It is the responsibility of State to make available funds in time for various components in their work plan.

National Task Force on Agriculture and Food exports

1352. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop a National Task Force on agriculture and food exports;

(b) if so, the need for such a task force;

(c) India's share in agriculture and food exports today; and

(d) the potential India has got in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) India has got a good potential in the agriculture export. The export of agricultural products (excluding tea, coffee, marine, cotton incl. Waste and castor oil) have shown a healthy rise from Rs. 1677348.32 lakh during the year 2000-2001 to Rs. 2118476.02 lakh during the year 2002-2003.